

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Wednesday, April 16, 2025

UC Admissions



A report from [Inside Higher Ed](#) indicates that the feds plan to challenge higher ed admissions practices. UC has argued that because of Prop 209, UC already complies with the Supreme Court's recent decision ending affirmative action. But there are some vulnerabilities in that argument. The first is that the Regents campaigned

to repeal 209 only a few years ago. The second is that when they dropped use of the SAT and ACT for admissions, they ignored a report from the Academic Senate that said that the way UC used the tests in admissions decisions actually contributed to diversity. All of this makes for a messy, ambiguous, and contradictory record.

...In March the Department of Justice launched investigations into admissions practices at Stanford University and three University of California campuses, accusing them of defying the Supreme Court's decision banning affirmative action in June 2023's Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard. Exactly what the Trump administration believes is going on behind closed doors in highly selective college admissions offices remains unclear. The University of California system has been prohibited from considering race in admissions since the state outlawed the practice in 1996, and both Harvard and Columbia have publicly documented changes to their admissions policies post-SFFA, including barring admissions officers from accessing the applicant pool's demographic data.

Regardless, given the DOJ investigations and demands of Columbia and Harvard—not to mention potential demands at newly targeted institutions like Princeton, Northwestern and Brown—the federal government appears set to launch a crusade against admissions offices...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/admissions/traditional-age/2025/04/14/admissions-offices-brace-federal-scrutiny>.

All of this will play out in the courts. It seems unlikely that the Regents will want to make a Columbia-type deal. But UC might want to reconsider its SAT/ACT decisions before that process occurs.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [admissions](#), [Brown University](#), [Columbia](#), [diversity](#), [Harvard](#), [Northwestern U](#), [politics](#), [Princeton U](#), [UC](#), [UC Regents](#)

Insecure?

From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

President Donald Trump signed a directive Wednesday removing the security clearances of University of Pennsylvania community members, the latest government action to pummel the president's alma mater.



In the directive, Trump, a 1968 Wharton School of Business graduate, ordered the Department of Justice to investigate Miles Taylor, a former senior Department of Homeland Security official who has criticized the president, including in a 2018 New York Times op-ed and in a book in which he alleges presidential misconduct during Trump's first term.

Taylor taught an undergraduate course at Penn in fall 2023 called The Future of Conservatism and the GOP, according to The Daily Pennsylvanian, and it's this tie that has put Penn in the crosshairs.

Trump's memo asks the attorney general, the director of national intelligence and other relevant department and agency heads to suspend the security clearances held by Taylor "and any individuals at entities associated with Taylor, including the University of Pennsylvania."

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- [Federal Investigations of UC Faculty Members](#)
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- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)
- [UCSB Faculty Association](#)
- [UCSC Faculty Association](#)
- [UCB Faculty Association](#)
- [Council of UC Faculty Associations](#)

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- [American Association of University Professors](#)
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Topics

[UC](#) (1959) [politics](#) (1888) [UC Regents](#) (1805) [health care](#) (1357) [State Budget](#) (1237) [governor](#) (1077) [UC budget crisis](#) (937) [UC-Berkeley](#) (870) [diversity](#) (719) [pension](#) (650) [pensions](#) (589) [tuition](#) (521) [admissions](#) (510) [athletics](#) (485) [CSU](#) (394) [transportation](#) (380) [UC-Davis](#) (371) [online education](#) (337) [UCOP](#) (295) [uc retirement](#) (295) [ucrp](#) (295)

According to The Philadelphia Inquirer, Penn does not conduct classified research and has no security clearance...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/04/11/penn-lose-security-clearance-trump-attack>.

Note that while U of Pennsylvania may not need security clearance - UC, with its Dept. of Energy labs (including Los Alamos) - does require such clearance. Those Regents that have oversight over the labs have such clearance, for example, as do - obviously - individuals engaged in research there.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments: 

Labels: politics, U of Pennsylvania, UC

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

LA County Tax Returns Deadline Extended to October 15



From the [LA Daily News](#):

Millions of taxpayers who live in Los Angeles County get to skip the April 15 tax deadline.

While almost everyone else in Southern California must file by Tuesday, residents in L.A. County can wait to file their tax returns in the fall because of a disaster declaration issued during the January wildfires that swept Pacific

Palisades and Altadena.

California taxpayers affected by those wildfires can file and pay their federal and state taxes as late as Oct. 15 without filing an extension.

The Internal Revenue Service and California Franchise Tax Board each provided guidance on tax relief for individuals and businesses in Los Angeles County affected by the wildfires and windstorms.

“Generally, when you’re talking about postponement of deadlines for disasters, the extension applies to anybody with an address of record in the county,” said Raphael Tulino, an IRS spokesman. “The Oct. 15 deadline is no different from the April 15 deadline.”

For taxpayers worried about paying penalties and interest on their taxes by filing on Oct. 15, Tulino said that the IRS automatically provides “filing and penalty relief to any taxpayer with an IRS address of record located in the disaster area.”

These taxpayers do not need to contact the agency to get this relief, he said.

The latest data available from Los Angeles County shows that nearly 4.7 million returns were filed with the IRS in 2022. The data reflects the number of people who might live in a household filing one return — like a married couple and their children — and not the actual number of residents, Tulino explained.

Households living elsewhere in Southern California are not affected by the postponement and must meet the Tuesday deadline for state and federal tax returns, or they can file an extension.

These include taxpayers in the counties of Orange, which last filed 1.6 million returns in 2022. In Riverside County that was 1.1 million, San Bernardino County was 986,000 and San Diego County 1.6 million.

IRS guidance

The IRS keeps an [official list online](#) of all disaster locations that show qualifications for an extension to file — including the L.A. wildfires. There are national and [California](#) specific announcements, Tulino said.

The California [announcement](#) — which Tulino said covers everything that is needed for taxpayers — lists the various postponed deadlines for individuals and businesses.

For instance, the IRS announcement clarifies that qualified wildfire relief payments made to Los Angeles County taxpayers that are not covered by insurance or other reimbursements are excluded from income, even if these payments are made by nonprofit organizations or other non-governmental entities.

The IRS is permitted to postpone tax-filing and tax payment deadlines because Los Angeles County was declared a disaster area by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the government agency that helps communities recover from disasters such as the L.A. wildfires.

The Oct. 15 deadline applies to individual income tax returns and payments normally due April 15, 2025. This relief also applies to the 2024 estimated tax payment due on Jan. 15, and estimated tax payments due on April 15, June 16 and Sept. 15.

California tax guidance

The state’s Franchise Tax Board provided similar advice to taxpayers.

For those who qualify for the Los Angeles County fire relief, the postponement to file and pay means interest and penalties would not accrue until after Oct. 15, according to FTB spokesman Andrew LePage.

He referred taxpayers to a [list of frequently asked questions](#) for residents and businesses affected by the wildfires.

audio (289) traffic (284) new hotel-conference center (282) UC enrollment (276) enrollment (251) UC-San Diego (245) community colleges (232) LAO (218) UC-Irvine (181) fund raising (161) UC-Santa Barbara (151) UC-Santa Cruz (151) UC-San Francisco (150) controller (140) faculty center (138) UC-Riverside (134) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (120) UC-Merced (109) faculty pay (108) Master Plan (102) Yudof (89) UCRS retirement (61) Faculty Association at UCLA (59) parking (59) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (34) copyright (30) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (21) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) Regents (13) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UC Irvine (3) UCpolitics (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

Blog Archive

- ▼ 2025 (324)
 - ▼ May (3)
 - The Unveiling - New UC Prez
 - AI Overselling: What could possibly go wrong?
 - Missed this one
 - April (81)
 - March (83)
 - February (76)
 - January (81)
- 2024 (832)
- 2023 (828)
- 2022 (719)
- 2021 (710)
- 2020 (914)
- 2019 (671)
- 2018 (595)
- 2017 (666)
- 2016 (715)
- 2015 (765)
- 2014 (704)
- 2013 (776)
- 2012 (839)
- 2011 (738)
- 2010 (431)
- 2009 (12)

Contributors

-  California Policy Issues
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The list covers such topics as who is eligible, whether tax returns and payments of a trust or estate in a covered disaster area for the 2024 tax year be considered timely if made by Oct. 15, and whether installment agreement payments are suspended through the postponed deadline.

The state provides subtle differences to the IRS' guidance.

For instance, taxpayers do not need to provide supporting documentation to prove that their principal residence or place of business is in Los Angeles County.

However, taxpayers should write the name of the disaster (for example, Los Angeles fire) in blue or black ink at the top of their return to alert the FTB.

If taxpayers are filing electronically, they should follow their software instructions to enter disaster information, according to the FTB. Taxpayers also are assigned a "disaster code" — which is 157, for Los Angeles County's January fires — when filing.

For further information, taxpayers should refer to the [FTB fire pages](#) for Los Angeles County, according to LePage.

Source: <https://www.dailynews.com/2025/04/14/april-tax-deadline-is-actually-oct-15-for-los-angeles-county-residents-2/>.

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Note that the tax delay complicates forecasting of state tax revenues as we approach the governor's May Revise budget proposal.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [11:12 AM](#)

No comments:

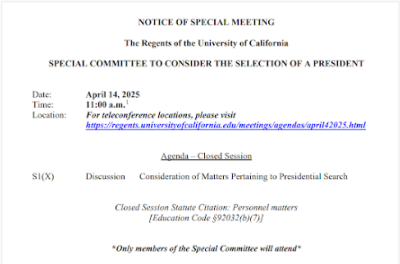
Labels: [governor](#), [miscellaneous](#), [State Budget](#)

What happened? Did someone get away?

Yesterday, we noted that a notice of a meeting of the Regents' committee looking for a new UC president to replace President Drake mysteriously disappeared from the Regents' website. Eleven AM, the designated time for the meeting came and went without any announcements.

So, what happened. Apparently, we'll never know. As of today, no replacement meeting is listed which suggests that the disappearance of the meeting was something more than a scheduling issue.

Could it be that we had a candidate who - at the last minute - got away?



Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzyPMRo8ZUQ>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [8:26 AM](#)

No comments:

Labels: [Drake](#), [UC Regents](#)

Appealing 15



From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

The National Institutes of Health appealed a federal judge's order blocking the Trump administration's attempt to cut funding for indirect research costs. The agency first announced its plan to cap reimbursements for indirect expenses at 15 percent of the overall grant value in early February, saying that it would ensure more funds went straight toward "direct scientific research costs." But there was immediate pushback as university faculty members, academic associations and administrators alike said the cap would force institutions to increase tuition for students or cut back on the breadth of research...

Judge Angel Kelley... had ruled that NIH's policy was reckless, contrary to the law and an example of executive overreach, as it bypassed rule-making protocol. She added that the defendants failed to provide sufficient reasoning for the change. The NIH filed its appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/04/14/nih-appeals-block-rate-change-proposal>.

Note: The US Dept. of Energy also is trying to impose 15% overhead on its university grants, an effort which is being appealed in court. See:

<https://www.science.org/content/article/energy-department-cuts-university-overhead-rates-to-15-on-research-grants>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments: 

Labels: [health care](#), [politics](#)

The Harvard Letter from the Feds - Part 3 (further response)



The Promise of American Higher Education 4-14-2025

Dear Members of the Harvard Community,

For three-quarters of a century, the federal government has awarded grants and contracts to Harvard and other universities to help pay for work that, along with investments by the universities themselves, has led to groundbreaking innovations across a wide range of medical, engineering, and scientific fields. These innovations have made countless people in our country and throughout the world healthier and safer. In recent weeks, the federal government has threatened its partnerships with several universities, including Harvard, over accusations of antisemitism on our campuses. These partnerships are among the most productive and beneficial in American history. New frontiers beckon us with the prospect of life-changing advances—from treatments for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and diabetes, to breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, quantum science and engineering, and numerous other areas of possibility. For the government to retreat from these partnerships now risks not only the health and well-being of millions of individuals but also the economic security and vitality of our nation.

Late Friday night, the administration issued an updated and expanded list of demands, warning that Harvard must comply if we intend to "maintain [our] financial relationship with the federal government." It makes clear that the intention is not to work with us to address antisemitism in a cooperative and constructive manner. Although some of the demands outlined by the government are aimed at combating antisemitism, the majority represent direct governmental regulation of the "intellectual conditions" at Harvard.

I encourage you to read the letter to gain a fuller understanding of the unprecedented demands being made by the federal government to control the Harvard community.* They include requirements to "audit" the viewpoints of our student body, faculty, staff, and to "reduc[e] the power" of certain students, faculty, and administrators targeted because of their ideological views. We have informed the administration through our legal counsel that we will not accept their proposed agreement. The University will not surrender its independence or relinquish its constitutional rights.

The administration's prescription goes beyond the power of the federal government. It violates Harvard's First Amendment rights and exceeds the statutory limits of the government's authority under Title VI. And it threatens our values as a private institution devoted to the pursuit, production, and dissemination of knowledge. No government—regardless of which party is in power—should dictate what private universities can teach, whom they can admit and hire, and which areas of study and inquiry they can pursue.

Our motto—Veritas, or truth—guides us as we navigate the challenging path ahead. Seeking truth is a journey without end. It requires us to be open to new information and different perspectives, to subject our beliefs to ongoing scrutiny, and to be ready to change our minds. It compels us to take up the difficult work of acknowledging our flaws so that we might realize the full promise of the University, especially when that promise is threatened.

We have made it abundantly clear that we do not take lightly our moral duty to fight antisemitism. Over the past fifteen months, we have taken many steps to address antisemitism on our campus. We plan to do much more. As we defend Harvard, we will continue to:

- nurture a thriving culture of open inquiry on our campus; develop the tools, skills, and practices needed to engage constructively with one another; and broaden the intellectual and viewpoint diversity within our community;
- affirm the rights and responsibilities we share; respect free speech and dissent while also ensuring that protest occurs in a time, place, and manner that does not interfere with teaching, learning, and research; and enhance the consistency and fairness of disciplinary processes; and

- work together to find ways, consistent with law, to foster and support a vibrant community that exemplifies, respects, and embraces difference. As we do, we will also continue to comply with *Students For Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, which ruled that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act makes it unlawful for universities to make decisions "on the basis of race."

These ends will not be achieved by assertions of power, unmoored from the law, to control teaching and learning at Harvard and to dictate how we operate. The work of addressing our shortcomings, fulfilling our commitments, and embodying our values is ours to define and undertake as a community. Freedom of thought and inquiry, along with the government's longstanding commitment to respect and protect it, has enabled universities to contribute in vital ways to a free society and to healthier, more prosperous lives for people everywhere. All of us share a stake in safeguarding that freedom. We proceed now, as always, with the conviction that the fearless and unfettered pursuit of truth liberates humanity—and with faith in the enduring promise that America's colleges and universities hold for our country and our world.

Sincerely,

Alan M. Garber

Source: Email sent to alumni and others.

*<https://ia600402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report.-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/Harvard%20-%20Letter%20from%20feds%204-11-2025.pdf>.

Yours truly - admittedly a non-lawyer - expects that if and when Harvard has its day in court, it will ultimately prevail. It will get back the \$2 billion that the *NY Times* reported was frozen due to its response to the feds' demands.** With its huge endowment, something not all universities have, it has the resources to take its case wherever it needs to go and however long it takes. But it might have been nice had Harvard's interim president admitted to *any* decisions Harvard made in the last couple of years that in retrospect might have been made differently. Even one? I realize that Harvard, in its own view, can do no wrong. But president Garber is the *interim* president only because his predecessor had to step down.

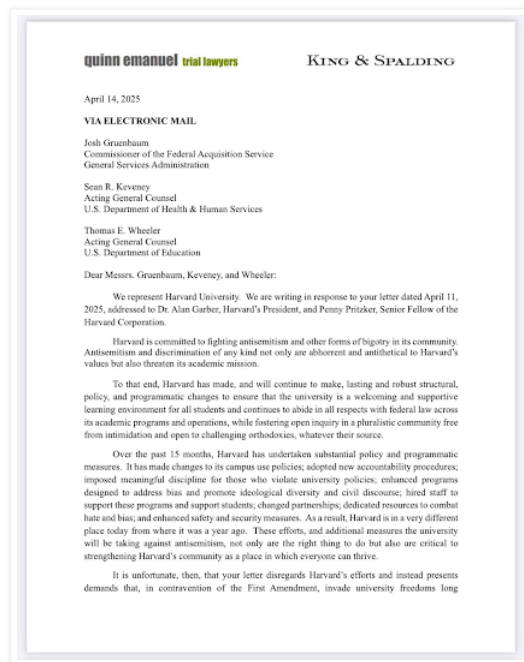
**<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/14/us/harvard-trump-reject-demands.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM 2 comments:    

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [diversity](#), [Harvard](#), [politics](#)

Monday, April 14, 2025

The Harvard Letter from the Feds - Part 2 (response)





Source: <https://x.com/sfmcguire79/status/1911830090519871826>.

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The original letter to Harvard was reproduced on this blog earlier. See:

<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/04/the-harvard-letter-from-feds.html>.

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Note: The letter above refers to a letter from the feds dated April 11, a date later than shown on our earlier link. There were two letters from the feds, one on April 3 and one on April 11, to the same general effect. The April 11 letter is at:

<https://ia600402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/Harvard%20-%20Letter%20from%20feds%204-11-2025.pdf>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 10:42 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Harvard, politics

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